

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-4, 8-10, 14-16, and 20-22 are cancelled. Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19 and 23-25 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, and 23-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima (European Patent Application No. 0,979,003) in view of Cui (U.S. Patent No. 7,119,788). Applicants submit that the claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

Claims 1, 5-7, 11-13, 17-19, and 23-25 are each distinguishable over the relied on sections of Fukushima and Cui for the reasons set out in the Amendment dated August 1, 2007.

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 have also been amended to more clearly show the differences between the claims and the relied on sections of the references. Support for these changes is found, e.g., in Fig. 3 and on page 11 of the specification.

For example, claim 1 as amended calls for:

illumination controlling means, including:

switching regulator means for receiving the control signal, for periodically receiving notification of the brightness of the illumination provided by said illuminating means, and for generating a DC signal based on the received control signal and the periodically received notification of the brightness of the illumination provided by said illuminating means, and

oscillator means for receiving the DC signal and for controlling the brightness of the illumination provided by said illuminating means based on the received DC signal[.] (Emphasis added.)

Neither the relied on sections of Fukushima nor the relied on sections of Cui disclose or suggest the claimed

feedback arrangement. Hence, the relied on sections of Fukushima and the relied on sections of Cui do not disclose or suggest periodically receiving notification of the brightness of illumination provided by an illuminating means, and the relied on sections of Fukushima and the relied on sections of Cui do not disclose or suggest generating a DC signal based on a control signal and periodically received notification of the brightness of illumination provided by an illuminating means.

For at least the above reasons, it follows that neither the relied-on sections of Fukushima nor the relied-on sections of Cui, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the combination defined in claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the cited references.

Independent claims 7, 13, and 19 each call for features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 1. Therefore, each of claims 7, 13, and 19 is patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied-on sections of Fukushima and Cui for at least the same reasons.

Claims 5-6 depend from claim 1, claims 11-12 depend from claim 7, claims 17-18 depend from claim 13, and claims 23-25 depend from claim 19. Therefore, each of claims 5-6, 11-12, 17-18, and 23-25 is distinguishable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as the claim from which it depends.

Applicants therefore respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a) and 112, second paragraph.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however,

for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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